



City of Carlsbad

Office of the Chief of Police

POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS

August 22, 2008
1645 hours

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POLICE MAKE ARREST IN CARJACK-STABBING CASE

Carlsbad Police Department has arrested 35-year-old Rafael Chavez in a stabbing case that occurred in Carlsbad earlier today.

At approximately 6:51 a.m., officers responded to the Shell Gas Station, located at 1145 Carlsbad Village Drive, for a report of a stabbing. Upon arrival, officers located a male victim in his 50s covered in blood lying on the sidewalk. The victim was conscious with several stab wounds and was transported by helicopter to Scripps Memorial Hospital in La Jolla.

It was learned that the victim had been confronted by the suspect, Chavez, who demanded the victim's wallet. A brief scuffle ensued and the victim was stabbed. Further investigation revealed that suspect Chavez was the passenger in a vehicle that he had carjacked earlier in the day in the 3300 block of Roosevelt Street in Carlsbad. Chavez and his carjack victim were at the Shell Station because the vehicle was out of gas.

After stabbing the victim at the Shell Station, the suspect forced the carjack victim to drive to a residence in Vista. After dropping off the suspect, the carjack victim went to the San Diego County Sheriff's Department substation in San Marcos to report the crime. Sheriff's personnel contacted Carlsbad Police Department. At the same time as Carlsbad and San Diego Sheriff's personnel were responding to the Vista residence, police received a call from a neighbor reporting a suspicious person at the residence. Deputies and officers arrived on scene and arrested Chavez after a positive identification by the carjacking victim.

The carjacking victim vehicle has been recovered. The stabbing victim is hospitalized with non life-threatening injuries.